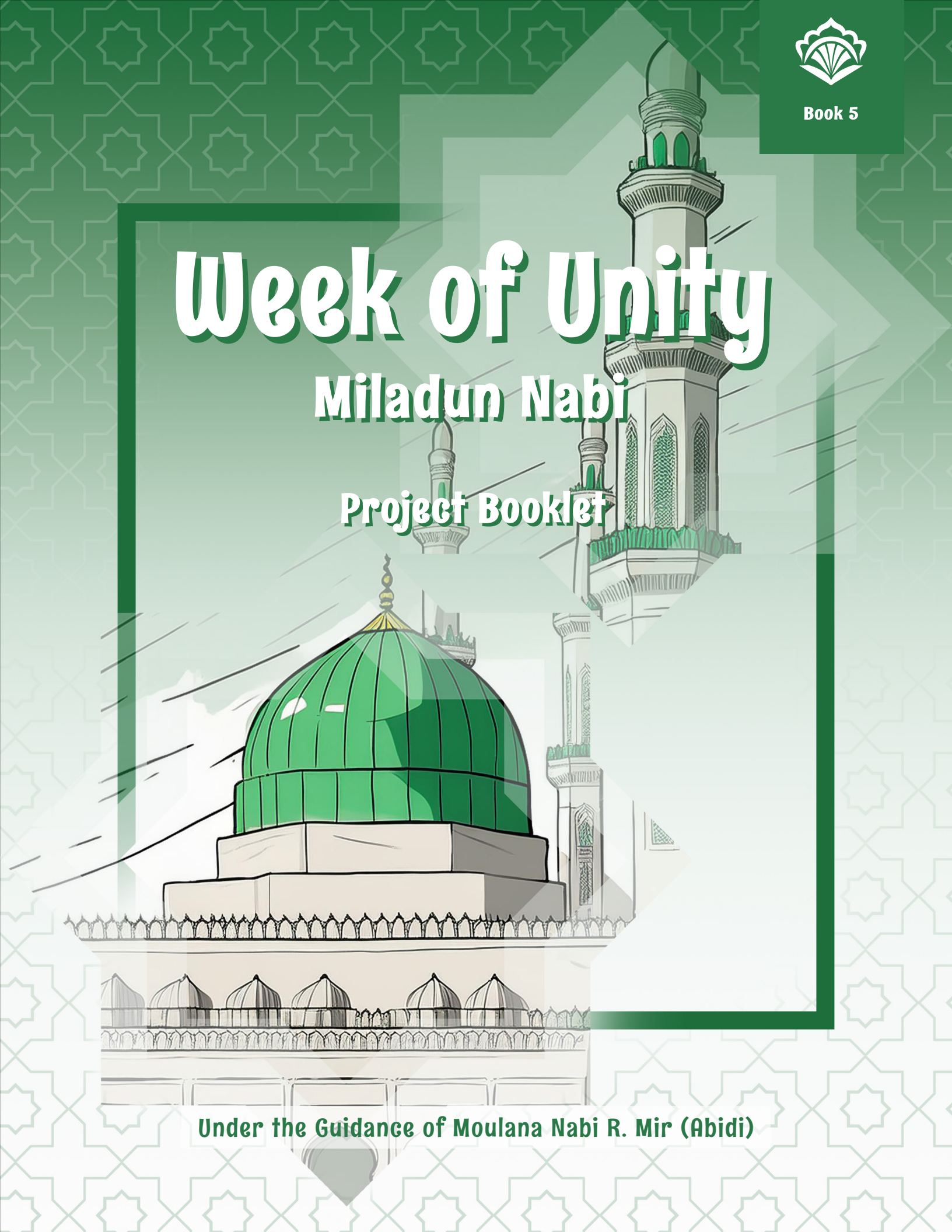
Book 5

Week of Unity

Miladun Nabi

Project Booklet



Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
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Important dates in Rabīʿ al-Awwal

1st	Migration of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) from Mecca to Medina
8th	Shahādah of Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa)
9th	Eid az-Zahrāʾ; Imāmah of 12th Imām (ʿaj) begins
10th	Marriage anniversary of Noble Prophet (ṣ) and Lady Khadījah
12th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) (by some traditions)
12-17th	Week of Unity
15th	Masjid al-Qūbaʾ, the first Islamic mosque, is constructed
17th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa)

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INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

al-islam.org
Hajij: The Importance of Unity in Islam
Tales of the Last Messenger by Kisa Publications
imamreza.net
Islam From the Start: Naml/Ant

Arts and Bricks: Tissue Paper Mosaic craft
Be Creative with Mehwish Khan: Mosque craft
Teacher's Mag: Anthill activity

بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

Salāmun ʿalaykum,

May Allah (swt) bless us, our families, and our communities. My tabrīkāt, taḥiyyāt, best wishes and congratulations to the Imām of our time, Imām al-Mahdī (aj), our great Marājiʿ and scholars, and to the Muslim Ummah on the wilādah of the best human being created on earth, the hope and mercy of the worlds, the perfect example and role model for mankind, our Noble Prophet of Islam, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), and on the wilādah of our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa).

During the time of Āyatullāh Khomeini, people approached him with a question about the two different narrations of the Noble Prophet's birthday. They asked whether they should celebrate on the 12th or 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal? Āyatullāh Khomeini looked puzzled and responded, "Should we celebrate just one day for this great man? We are celebrating the birth of the best creation of Allah! We should have a whole week of celebrations!" This is how the week of unity and waḥdah began and is celebrated globally.

However, there's an important point to consider about unity: it cannot be a naive concept or just a slogan we chant a few times a year. Our unity must be thoughtful, strategic, and intentional.

When the Prophet (ṣ) first introduced Islam, he didn't rely on political strategies. His message was simple yet profound: "*Qūlū lā ilāha illallāh tuflihū*" - "Say, 'there is no god except Allah, and you will be successful.'" With unwavering belief in *lā ilāha illallāh* and the powerful tool of akhlāq, the Noble Prophet (ṣ) brought life to a people who, though physically alive, were spiritually dead inside.

He taught that in Islam, there is no distinction between Arab and non-Arab, black and white, male and female, or one tribe and another. The only measure of worth is taqwā (God-consciousness), and taqwā is something only Allah (swt) can judge, not us.

Unfortunately, we have moved away from the akhlāq that is rooted in *lā ilāha illallāh*, and the fruits of this akhlāq that bring freedom, human rights, equality, and unity. Today, we are split by color, culture, race, language, madhhab (sects), and are fighting regarding things that go against the Prophet's great akhlāq.

The main question is *how* to be unified. There are two main points that are keys to successful unity:

1. Accommodation: We cannot hold the banner of unity while ignoring our differences or pretending we are all the same. However, we must be accommodating when it comes to these realities. In matters of fiqh that require expertise, each person follows their own madhhab and rulings. We can respect and welcome the way others pray, just as they can respect the way we pray. Accommodation allows everyone to remain firm in their beliefs and principles. It is not about conversion, but rather fostering an environment of mutual respect.

   Here, unity means empathy - understanding and respecting each other's differences, agreeing to disagree in a respectful manner that is visible for all to see and appreciate. Unity, in this context, is accommodation. Even throughout history, we have seen examples of this: Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) answered the questions of people from other faiths, such as Christians and Jews, using their own religious texts!

2. Focusing on common challenges: Today, we are recognized simply as Muslims. When the media spreads negative portrayals of Islam, it doesn't differentiate between Shīʿah or Ahlus Sunnah; the label "Muslim" is used universally. When our children face bullying at school, in the workplace, or anywhere else, no one asks if they are Shīʿah or Ahlus Sunnah - they are just seen as Muslims. As a Muslim Ummah, we face many shared challenges in the society we live in, and we must learn to prioritize. Some of these common challenges include media bias, bullying, drug use, depression, modesty, keeping our children on the right path, and family issues.

What can we do today? We need to establish strong communication channels between Muslims and masājid, between leaders and scholars. By engaging in productive dialogue, focusing on our common ground, and not emphasizing our differences, we can be successful. Indeed, we all acknowledge the historical differences that exist. We shouldn't expect others to pray exactly as we do, and they shouldn't expect us to pray like them. But prayer is a shared foundation! We must stand together, work together, and present a united front to convey the truth.

We are the ambassadors of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) and Islam. Our mission is to invite others to the faith through our akhlāq and by demonstrating the blessings that come from tawḥīd and the message of *Qūlū lā ilāha illallāh tuflihū*.

In honor of the wilādah of our Noble Prophet (ṣ), we are pleased to launch the Week of Unity Project Booklet. This booklet includes five lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray these projects will assist in planting the love of our Noble Prophet (ṣ) and his Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in our children and serving the oppressed of the world through prayer and good deeds. By following the right role models and serving Allah's creations, inshāʾAllāh, we will become closer to Him.

Our humble request is to create a two-way connection by all of us sharing our expertise and experiences and avoiding duplicated work, in order to maximize our potential. Please share your ideas, experiences, and successes with us, so that together, we can all move forward and build a global network.

We pray that Allah (swt) gives us the tawfīq to actualize our duties and responsibilities.

Jazākallāh khayrā and best wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

Introduction to Unity

Objective: Children will be introduced to the Week of Unity, what it means, and how to practice it in their lives.

We are now in the Islamic month of Rabīʿ al-Awwal. There are two special people whose birthdays we celebrate this month: our Noble Prophet, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), and our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa). There are two different traditions of the Prophet's wilādah: the 12th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal and the 17th. The days in between have come to be known as the Week of Unity.

Unity means "something whole or complete that is made up of separate parts" that have come together in agreement. Look at the example of the Muslim Ummah. We all have our differences, but we respect each other despite those differences. We use our differences not to create distance, but to unite us with the one common thing we share: our Noble Prophet (ṣ) and his teachings.

We should respect each other, no matter what differences we may have. We can talk to other people in a nice way. We can be kind to others when they need help. These are just some ways we can have good akhlāq and stay united with our fellow Muslims. Allah (swt) says in the Qurʾān, "And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allah, and do not be divided among yourselves."[1] This shows that one of the best ways to stay united is by following the teachings of the Qurʾān, as taught to us by Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) . Today, we are going to test ourselves to see if we know ways to have unity.

1 Noble Qurʾān, Sūrah Āl ʿImrān (3), Verse 103.

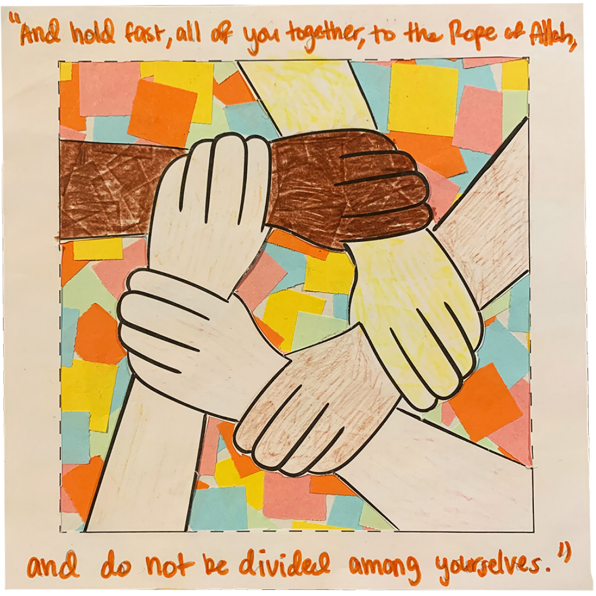
Unity Mosaic

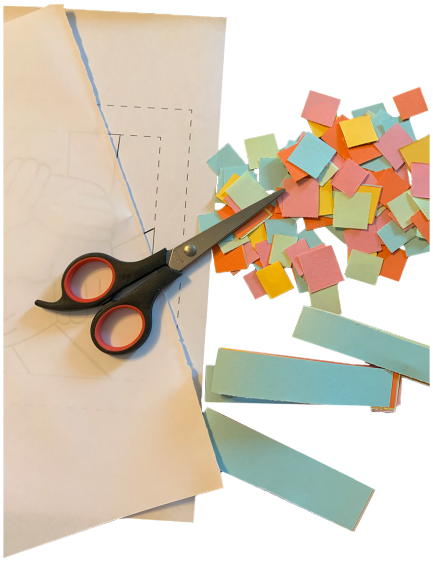
Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Mosaic template
- Colored paper
- 1 plain paper
- Scissors
- Glue/tape
- Optional: tissue paper and contact paper (or parchment paper)

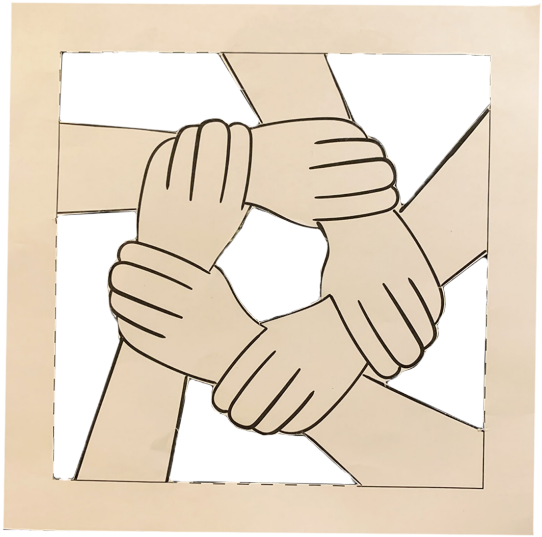


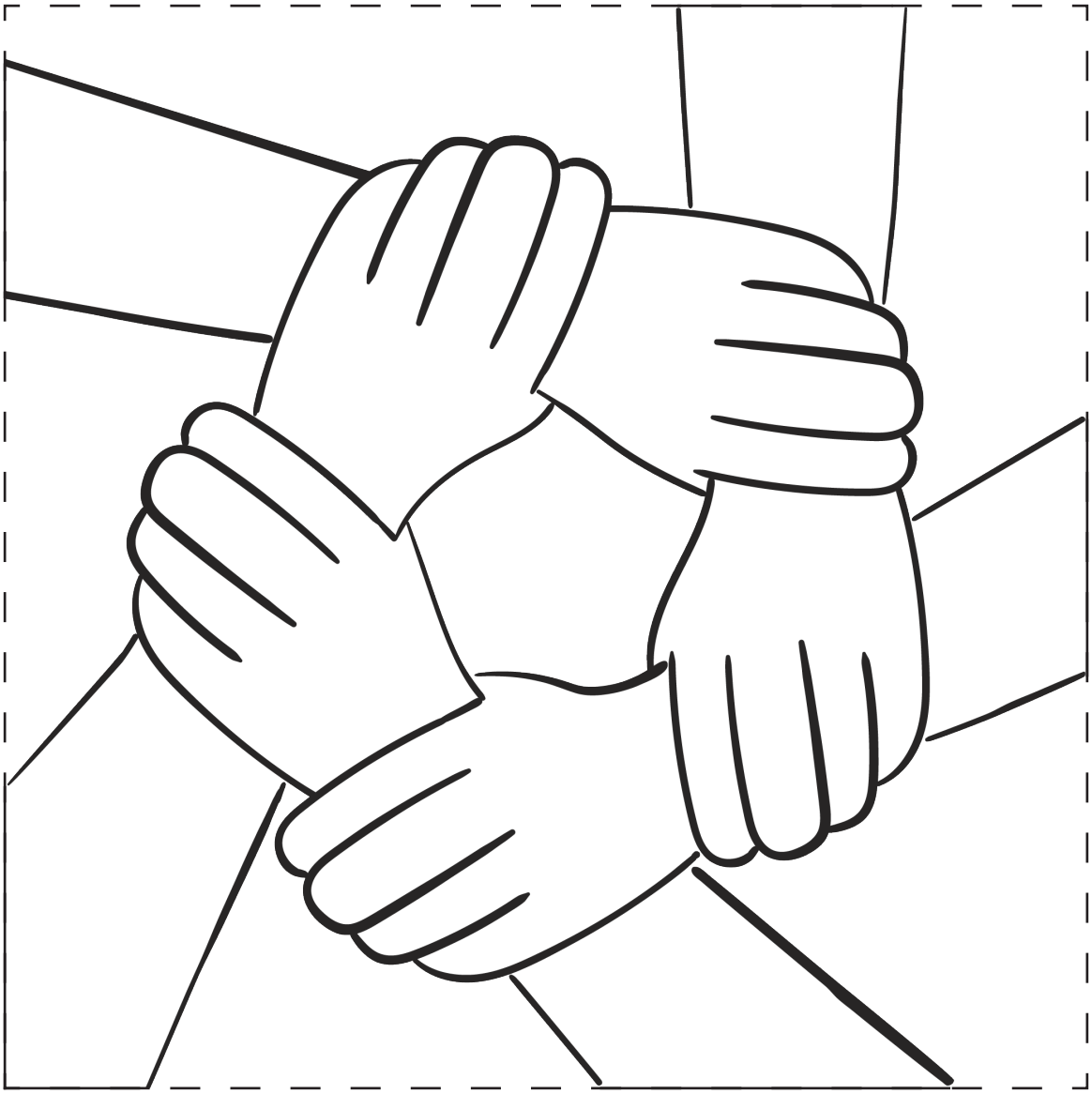


Procedure:

1. Cut out small pieces from the colored paper, they can be squares or random shapes. Use a variety of colors.
2. Cut a 7.5 in by 7.5 in square from the plain paper. Glue the colored pieces onto this plain paper square.
3. Cut out the silhouette from the template. Be sure not to cut where the hands meet the square, this will detach the image of the hands from the border.
4. Glue the silhouette on top of the paper with the colored pieces.
5. Trim off the excess outside the silhouette's border.
6. Finish coloring and decorating the craft however you like.
7. Optional: You can use colorful tissue paper and contact paper (or parchment paper). For this option, cut up the tissue paper into small pieces and glue/tape them to the contact paper (or parchment paper). Then glue/tape the silhouette on top. This can be hung in front of a window to let sunlight shine through, like a mosaic window.

Craft inspired by Arts and Bricks.





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Celebrating Together

Objective: Children will learn about the meaning of brotherhood in Islam, as taught by Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ).

After the event of Hijrah, the Noble Prophet (ṣ) used the idea of unity to bring together different groups of people. The event of Hijrah is when the Prophet (ṣ) and his followers migrated to the city of Medina from Mecca. The people of Medina were called the Anṣār, or helpers. They were very welcoming and invited the Muhājirīn, those who left Mecca, to live in their city. When they arrived in Medina, the Prophet (ṣ) stood up in the masjid, turned towards the Muslims and said, "(O people!) Stand up so that I can make you brothers of one another (in the name of Allah)." So, all of the Muslims stood up and greeted each other as brothers, for whom they had a great deal of love and affection for, with the Prophet (ṣ) choosing Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) as his own brother.1

Through this, the Noble Prophet (ṣ) wanted to show everyone how important it is to treat each other with kindness and respect. He showed it in a way that everyone could practice and experience it for themselves. During this week of unity, we can celebrate the wilādah of our Noble Prophet (ṣ) by learning about his exceptional akhlāq toward others and trying to act accordingly.

Demonstration: Depending on your setting, show your connection of brotherhood with a person near you. This can be a parent, sibling, friend, or classmate. Greet them by saying "salām." If you want, give each other a hug, high five, or handshake.

In honor of his wilādah, we are going to make a craft showing the beautiful masjid of the Prophet (ṣ), and remember all that he has taught us.

1 Ibn Hishām, *Aṣ-Ṣīrah an-Nabawīyyah*, Vol. 1, P 123-124.

Masjid an-Nabawī Craft

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Tissue box
- Paper roll
- Styrofoam ball (if available)
- Green and white paper
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Markers
- Scissors
- Liquid glue
- Tape
- Other decorative materials

Note: you can substitute any of the materials with whatever you have around the house or easily available at the store. For example, you can use a shoe box or any other cardboard box of similar size and shape of a tissue box. Some options will be given in the instructions, and you can make any other adjustments as you see fit.

Procedure:

1. Main Masjid Building: Cover the tissue box with white paper and secure it with tape.
2. Dome of the Masjid:
    - Option 1: Carefully cut the styrofoam ball in half and color it green using paper, paint, or any other materials.
    - Option 2: Fold the green paper in half twice. Draw a dome shape on the folded paper and cut along the shape. You should end up with 4 identical dome shapes. Fold each shape in half. Glue the folded shapes together by applying glue to one side of each and attaching them to the next, aligning the edges. Once all the shapes are glued together, glue the final side to the first one, creating a 3D dome.

3. Minaret of the Masjid: Cover a paper roll with white paper and secure it with tape. Make a smaller dome shape (similar to the main dome) for the top of the minaret and attach it using glue or tape. You can make one minaret or two, depending on your preference.
4. Assembly: Attach the dome to the top of the covered tissue box using glue or tape. Then, attach the minaret next to the dome.
5. Decorate: Get creative! Add a door, windows, and other embellishments to the masjid using additional materials like colored paper, markers, or stickers.

You can watch this video by Be Creative with Mehwish Khan as an example.

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Pomegranate Seeds

Objective: Children will learn about good manners toward others who are different from us.

Although the Noble Prophet (ṣ) wanted all of the Muslims to get along and work together, some people still focused only on their differences. One day, Salmān al-Muḥammadī, a close companion of the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa), went to visit the Noble Prophet (ṣ) and received the same warm welcome he always did. When some of the other guests noticed this, they were jealous of the special attention Salmān received from the Prophet (ṣ). They were angry that the Prophet (ṣ) gave so much love and respect to a poor man! They felt that only men like themselves, who were rich and popular, deserved that kind of respect.

One of the men loudly complained, "Who is this Persian man who has gained so much respect and honor among us? Why does the Prophet (ṣ) show him so much respect and love? We are so much better than him!" The Prophet (ṣ) heard this and was very upset by his words. He did not want any of his followers to think or behave so arrogantly! The Prophet (ṣ) stood up and gave them the lesson they needed, saying, "O my brothers! All human beings who have existed from the time of Prophet Ādam until now are equal, just as each seed in a pomegranate is equal. Each seed is similar in size, and tastes as sweet as the one that rests next to it! How can anyone think he is better than the person next to him?"[1]

The Prophet (ṣ) and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) had the best akhlāq, especially when it came to how to treat others. We should treat everyone with respect and kindness. It doesn't matter if they don't look like us, if they are poor or rich, if they are from a different country, or if they speak a different language. Today, we are going to make a pomegranate and we are going to see who all should be included in our pomegranate.

1 *Tales of the Last Messenger* by Kisa Publications

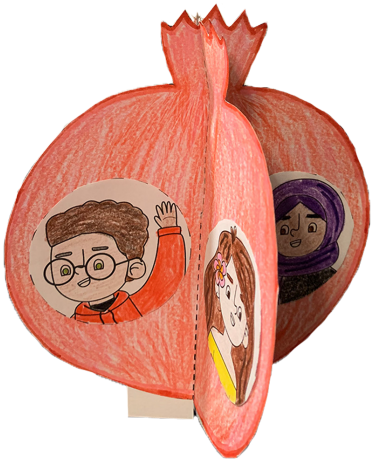
Pomegranate Craft

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Pomegranate template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue



Procedure:

1. Color the pictures on the template however you like.
2. Look at the pictures of the people. Which ones are all the same, like seeds in a pomegranate, according to the Noble Prophet (ṣ)? (Hint: it's all of them).
3. In the blank circle, draw a picture of yourself.
4. Cut out the images of the pomegranate, making sure to include the rectangle tab on each one.
5. Cut along the dotted line in the middle of each pomegranate.
6. Cut out the pictures of the people and glue them to the pomegranate.
7. Assemble the pomegranate by sliding one piece through the other along the slits. This will connect the two pieces.

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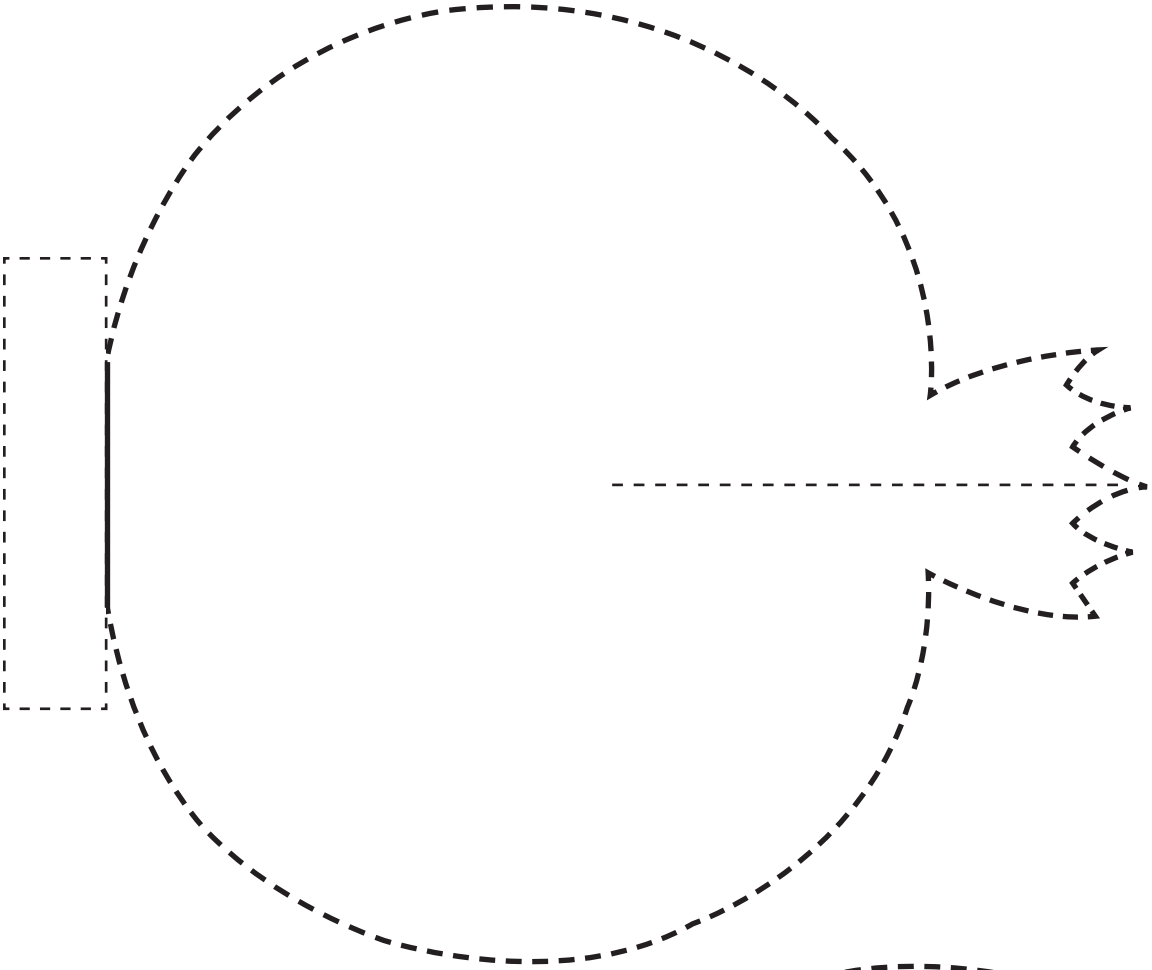

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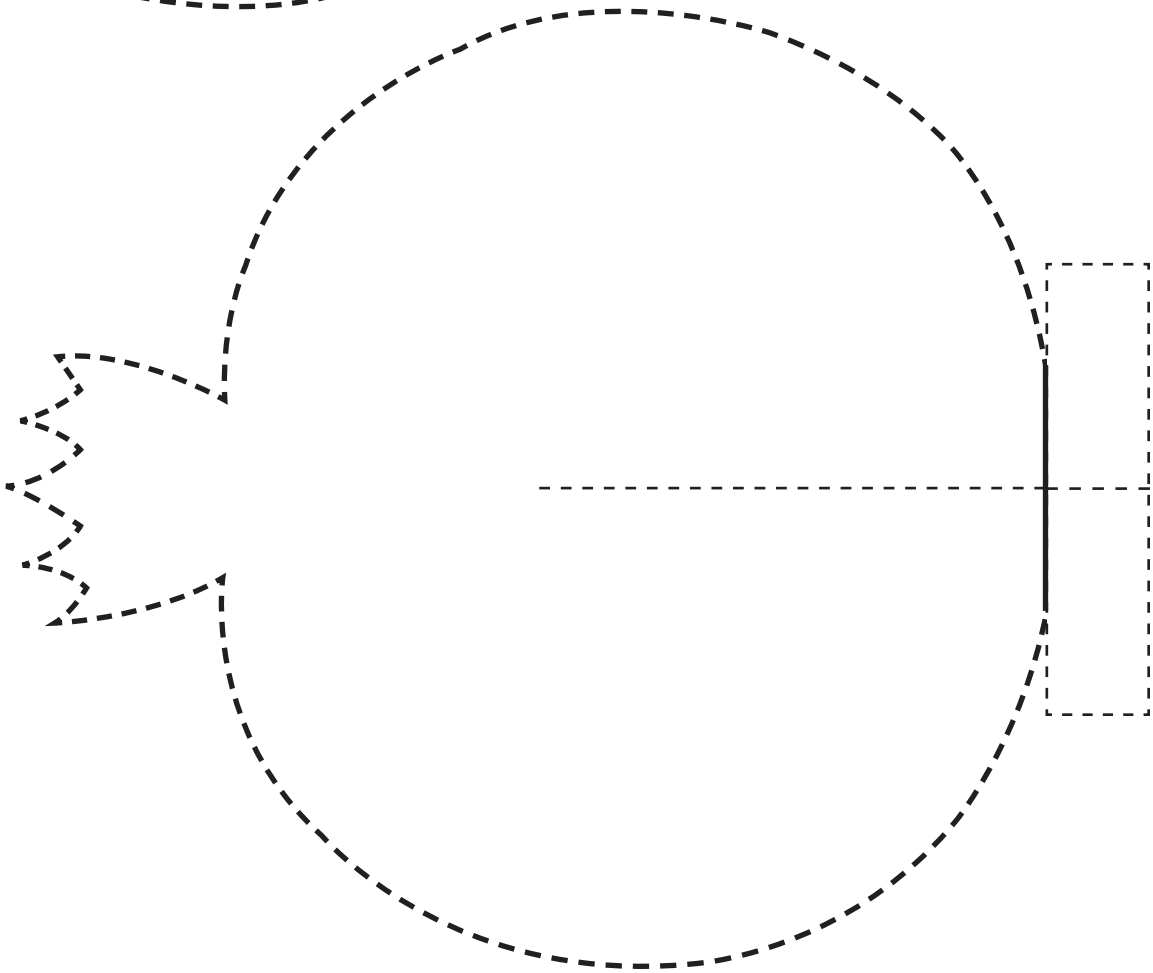

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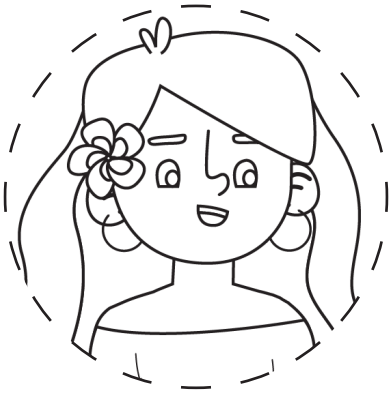

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How to Talk to Others

Objective: Children will learn about how to talk to others and what to say to those who are being mean.

On the 17th or Rabīʿ al-Awwal, we celebrate the wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ). We also celebrate the wilādah of our 6th Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa).

Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) has taught us many things, including the importance of having good akhlāq toward others. In one ḥadīth, he has said, "There are three deeds that are very good deeds in this world and the hereafter: to forgive the one who has wronged you; to maintain a close relationship with someone who broke with you; and to be gentle to someone who behaved foolishly towards you."[1] This shows us that no matter how others may treat us, we should still keep our good akhlāq and continue to treat them with kindness.

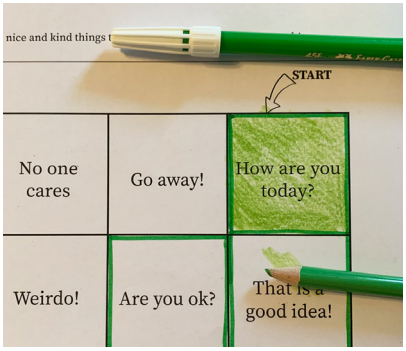
Sometimes, when other people are mean to us, we might feel like being mean back to them. However, we should remember what Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) has said about good deeds towards others, and how the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) have treated those who were mean to them. Today, we are going to do an activity to learn kind and respectful things we can say to others, even those being mean to us.

1 Shaykh Ḥurr ʿĀmilī, *Wasāʾil ash-Shīʿah.*

Path to Jannah Activity

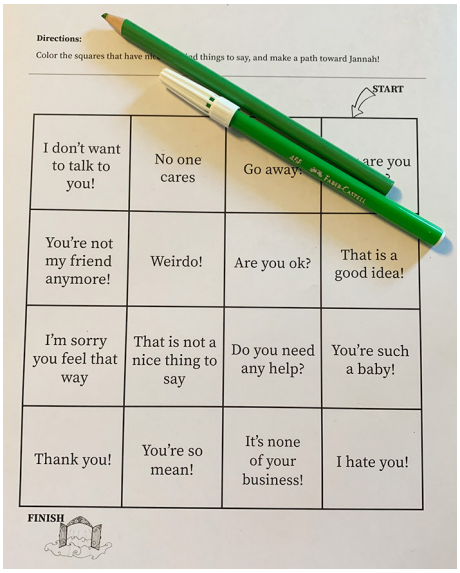
Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 35 minutes



Materials:

- Squares template
- Crayons/colored pencils



Procedure:

1. Look at the template with a phrase written in each square.
2. Begin at "START" and color in the squares that have kind and nice things to say.
3. Leave the squares blank if they contain mean or hurtful phrases.
4. Create a path to Jannah by following the kind phrases and finish where it says "FINISH."

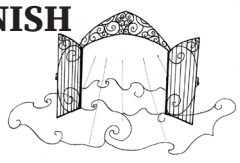
Directions:

Color the squares that have nice and kind things to say, and make a path toward Jannah!

START

I don't want to talk to you!	No one cares	Go away!	How are you today?
You're not my friend anymore!	Weirdo!	Are you ok?	That is a good idea!
I'm sorry you feel that way	That is not a nice thing to say	Do you need any help?	You're such a baby!
Thank you!	You're so mean!	It's none of your business!	I hate you!

FINISH



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Lessons From an Ant

Objective: Children will learn some lessons from ants about manners in a community.

Besides the Dīn, our Maʿṣūmīn had an extensive knowledge of the sciences. During his time, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) was able to educate many of his students on the concepts of physics, chemistry, anatomy, and much more. He presented this knowledge as a confirmation and appreciation of Allah (swt) and His creations. As we celebrate the wilādah of our 6th Imām (ʿa), let us take a look at a lesson he has taught us through science.

Mufaḍḍal, a companion of the Imām (ʿa), once had a conversation in which he asked the Imām (ʿa) several questions about different subjects of nature. One topic was about ants. Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) described the behavior of ants, saying that they "gather together to gather food for themselves," and that "[when] several ants mean to carry a grain to their homes they resemble several men engaged in carrying home their corn." He went on to say "Do you not see how they help each other in carrying the grain like men?"[1]

Our Imām (ʿa) wanted us to see how the ants behave with each other and what we can learn from them. They work together to find and share food with each other. They are divided into groups that each have their own role and responsibilities, which all contribute to their survival and success. We can try to adopt these characteristics. There are different parts of our community and each play a role in our lives. Whether it's the postmen, trash collectors, store clerks, local authorities, and our neighbors, everyone does their part to make and keep the community safe and functioning. Today, we are going to do an activity that will show us the parts of our community, using the similarities of an anthill.

1 ʿAllāmah Majlisī, *Biḥār al-Anwār*, Vol. 3, Ch. 4, P. 57, Ḥadīth #29.

Ant Hill Community

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 35 minutes

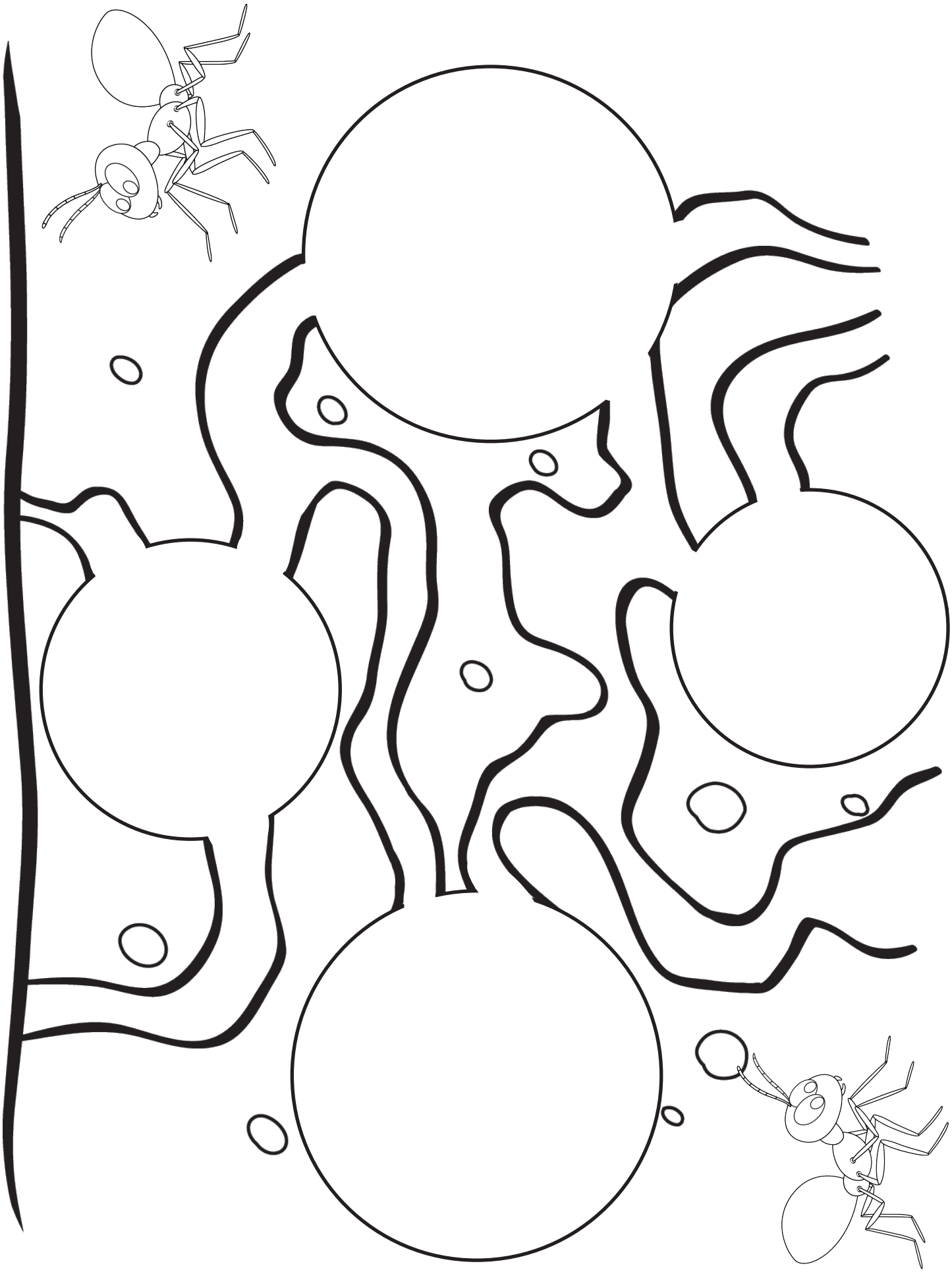
Materials:

- Anthill template
- Crayons/colored pencils

Procedure:

1. In the circles in the template, draw different ways you contribute to or play a role in your community.
2. Color and decorate the page however you like to make it your own.

You can learn more about ants at Islam From the Start.



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